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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 11 September 1998, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Opertti-Badán (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Uruguay)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/53/1)

Section I: Introduction

1. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to its rules of procedure. It also took note of paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Section II. Organization of the session

Paragraph 5 (General Committee)

2. *The Committee took note of the decision and resolutions referred to in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 6 to 9 (Rationalization of work)

3. *The Committee took note of paragraphs 6, 7 and 9 and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraph 10 (Closing date of the session)

4. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the fifty-third session should recess on Friday, 11 December 1998 and that the First, Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth), Third and Sixth Committees should complete their work by Friday, 20 November, the Second Committee by Friday, 27 November and the Fifth Committee by Friday, 4 December 1998.*

Paragraphs 11 to 13 (Schedule of meetings)

5. *The Committee decide to recommend to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. promptly for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. The Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees, including informal meetings, should be adjourned by 6 p.m., and that no meetings should be held on weekends. It also decided to recommend that that cost-saving measure should also apply, for the remainder of 1998, to meetings on the calendar of conferences and meetings.*

6. *The Committee further decided to recommend that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the quorum requirements for plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees and should remind delegations of the utmost importance of punctuality in the interest of ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations.*

7. **The Chairman** urged all delegations to comply with the suggestion made at previous sessions that each delegation should designate one of its members to be present at the scheduled starting time of meetings.

Paragraphs 14 to 17 (General debate)

8. *The Committee took note of paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, drew the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 15 and endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraph 16.*

9. **The Chairman** urged representatives, in view of the large number of speakers already inscribed on the list of speakers for the general debate, to take the floor in the order in which they appeared on that list. Those unable to speak at the scheduled time would be put at the end of the list for the meeting in question.

10. *The Committee decided to recommend to the Assembly that the procedure outlined in paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's memorandum should also apply during the fifty-third session.*

Paragraphs 18 to 20 (Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and length of statements)

11. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401 and to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto for appropriate action in plenary meeting and in the Main Committees. It further decided to recommend to the Assembly that points of order should be limited to five minutes.*

Paragraph 21 (Records of meetings)

12. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and, in that connection, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the practice of not reproducing statements made in a Main Committee in extenso should be maintained for the fifty-third session.*

Paragraph 22 (Seating arrangements)

13. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 23 (Concluding statements)

14. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the need for full implementation of paragraph 17 of General Assembly decision 34/401.*

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Paragraphs 24 to 27 (Resolutions)

15. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45.*

Paragraphs 28 to 30 (Documentation)

16. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401, to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraph 4 of its resolution 50/206 C. The Committee also decided to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of the annex to resolution 51/241.*

Paragraphs 31 to 34 (Questions related to the programme budget)

17. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions contained in paragraphs 31 and 32 and to the observations contained in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 35 and 36 (Observances and commemorative meetings)

18. **Mr. Grainger** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation supported the recommendation in paragraph 35 of the Secretary-General's memorandum on the understanding that the necessary flexibility would apply in following the general practice.

19. *The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraphs 37 and 38 (Special conferences)

20. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Paragraph 39 (Meetings of subsidiary organs)

21. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter dated 19 August 1998 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/53/298) informing him that the Committee had recommended, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that a number of subsidiary organs should be authorized to meet during the main part of the fifty-third session. Authorization was sought for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and for the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

22. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to meet during the main part of the fifty-third session.*

Section III. Observations on the organization of future sessions of the General Assembly

Paragraphs 40 and 41

23. *The Committee decided to draw the Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 40 and 41 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda

Paragraphs 42 to 46

24. **The Chairman** said that, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the Committee would not consider the substance of any item except insofar as it bore on the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

25. *The Committee decided to take note of the suggestions made in paragraph 43 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.*

26. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, concerning item 62 of the draft agenda entitled "The situation in Burundi". A communication had been received from Burundi requesting the deletion of that item.

27. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it delete item 62 from the draft agenda of the fifty-third session.*

28. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 45 of the Secretary-General's memorandum concerning item 89 of the draft agenda. The Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had requested that the wording of that item be changed to reflect recent resolutions of the Special Committee.

29. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the title of item 89 should read "Economic*

and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories".

30. **The Chairman** said that the sponsors had requested that item 168, entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide", be included as a sub-item under item 46 ("Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights").

31. **Mr. Rosenstock** (United States of America) said that two separate events should be held in order to commemorate the Convention and the Declaration properly.

32. **Mr. Abelian** (Armenia) said that that was the sponsors' intention.

33. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 168 should be included as a sub-item under item 46.*

Paragraph 47 (inclusion of items)

Items 1 to 6

34. **The Chairman** said that since items 1 to 6 had already been dealt with, he would take it that there was no objection to their inclusion in the agenda.

35. *It was so decided.*

Items 7 to 91

36. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 7 to 91 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Item 92

37. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that, following consultations with the Governments of Madagascar and France, his delegation wished to propose that consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" be deferred to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the positions which those Governments might take on the issue at that time.

38. **Mr. Henze** (Germany) supported the proposal by the representative of Senegal.

39. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fourth session and that it should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Item 93

40. **Mr. Fillippi Balestra** (San Marino), referring to item 93, entitled "Question of East Timor", said that the report of the Secretary-General to be issued shortly indicated that, at the meetings held under his auspices between Portugal and Indonesia, substantive issues had been identified and discussed, including the possibility of special status for East Timor. It was hoped that an agreement would be reached before the end of 1998. In order to preserve an atmosphere conducive to continued progress in the talks, his delegation was therefore proposing that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

41. **Mr. Maidin** (Brunei Darussalam) supported the proposal by the representative of San Marino.

42. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-fourth session and that it should be included in the provisional agenda of that session.*

Items 94 to 159

43. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 94 to 159 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Item 160

44. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, of which he was Chairman, had requested the inclusion of the item entitled "Bethlehem 2000" in the agenda of the fifty-third session. For nearly 2000 years, the town of Bethlehem, in Palestine, had been a symbol of peace, reconciliation and hope for a better future for all humankind. The Palestinian Authority had decided to launch a "Bethlehem 2000" project to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ. Some 2 million visitors were expected and the project would involve cultural activities, modernization of the town's infrastructure, improvements in basic social, health and security services, preservation of Palestine's rich heritage and the creation of tourist facilities.

45. It was encouraging to note that the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank had already undertaken related projects. The United Nations as a whole should seize the opportunity afforded by that historic occasion to advance the cause of peace by including the item in question in the agenda of its fifty-third session.

46. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 160 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Item 161

47. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Zimbabwe had asked to participate in the discussion of the item in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

48. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mapuranga (Zimbabwe) took a place at the Committee table.*

49. **Mr. Mapuranga** (Zimbabwe) said that, as a member of the World Solar Commission, his delegation was requesting the inclusion of a new item, entitled "World Solar Programme 1996–2005", in the agenda of the fifty-third session. Promoting the use of renewable energy, particularly solar energy, had been linked with the broader goal of achieving sustainable development. The Commission had adopted a 10-year Programme, but it could not be carried out in isolation from other efforts. The General Conference of UNESCO had adopted a resolution in support of the Programme and the General Assembly should do likewise. The item should be dealt with in plenary meeting, as it required a policy decision.

50. *Mr. Mapuranga (Zimbabwe) withdrew.*

51. **Mr. Chkheidze** (Georgia) said that, as a member of the World Solar Commission, his delegation attached great importance to the inclusion of the proposed item. In its five-year review of the implementation of *Agenda 21*, the General Assembly had recognized the need for further promotion of renewable energy.

52. **Mr. Qin Huasun** (China) said that solar energy was an important renewable energy source which produced little or no pollution. His delegation therefore strongly supported the inclusion of the item.

53. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 161 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Items 162 to 165

54. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of items 162 to 165 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.*

Item 166

55. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that, bearing in mind the principles of universality, justice and solidarity among nations, Senegal fully supported the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-third session. The Republic of China was entitled to recognition as an integral part of the international community. A founding member of the United Nations, it had been a permanent member of the Security Council until 1971 when, under General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), it had lost its status as a Member State and a permanent member of the Security Council. The world had changed a great deal since then. The Republic of China had built a society which ensured respect for human rights and democracy, the rule of law and the principles governing international relations. The first democratic elections, held in March 1996, had been a significant democratic gain.

56. The Republic of China on Taiwan had achieved economic and commercial might and it fulfilled the conditions of a State as defined in constitutional law: it had its own territory and population and wielded institutional power within well-identified, recognized borders. It exercised its power to conclude international treaties, and was therefore, *de jure* and de facto, a subject of international law. It maintained diplomatic relations with nearly 30 States Members of the United Nations and economic and commercial relations with 120 nations throughout the world. It was a member of 14 intergovernmental organizations and over 900 non-governmental organizations. It also had observer status in the World Trade Organization and now met the conditions for full membership.

57. It was time to recognize the legal, political and economic reality of the Republic of China on Taiwan, a democratic, peaceful country which respected human rights and freedoms and stood ready to contribute to the overall progress of humankind, in solidarity and cooperation with all peace- and justice-loving nations. Taiwan had immense potential as a trading nation and its stabilizing role in the recent financial crisis in Asia had been significant. Taiwan also provided assistance to dozens of developing countries. Its vast experience in science and technology and its expertise in agriculture and public works should be placed at the service of the international community. Senegal therefore called for a review of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) to enable the Republic of China to resume its rightful place in the United Nations system.

58. Senegal's request was based on the principles of law and equity and should not be construed as interference in the internal affairs of any State. It was a sovereign request from a sovereign State which was anxious to preserve peace, friendship and solidarity among the peoples and nations of South-East Asia and of the world.

59. **Mr. Qin Huasun** (China) said that, at the instigation of the Taiwan authorities and in disregard of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the Committee's decisions over the past five years, a handful of countries had once again raised the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" in a brazen

attempt to challenge General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The aim was to split a sovereign State and create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" at the United Nations; that constituted a grave encroachment on China's sovereignty and brutal interference in its internal affairs.

60. It was well known that Taiwan had been an inalienable part of China since ancient times. The 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation had reaffirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan. Currently, 162 countries maintained diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and they all recognized that its Government was the sole lawful Government representing China in its entirety and that Taiwan was an inalienable part of China. In the nearly 50 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, there had been great changes both in the world situation and in China, including Taiwan. However, no such change could alter the fact that Taiwan was a province of China and that China exercised sovereignty over Taiwan.

61. In 1971, the General Assembly had adopted by an overwhelming majority resolution 2758 (XXVI) restoring the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations and expelling the Taiwan authorities from the Organization. Without expelling Taiwan from the United Nations, it would have been impossible to resolve the question of China's representation at the United Nations and to give expression to the "one China" principle. The resolution had justly, comprehensively and definitively settled the question of China's representation at the United Nations, in the spirit of the Charter. The so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" was being put forward in an attempt to strip the resolution of its essence, negate the "one China" principle and create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan"; that attempt went against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States and was doomed to failure.

62. Under Article 4 of the Charter, only sovereign States were entitled to membership in the United Nations. As a province of China, Taiwan was in no position to join the United Nations, because, according to the principles of international law, the sovereignty of a State was indivisible. In the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Government of the People's Republic of China represented the Chinese people as a whole, including the population of Taiwan. The question of Taiwan was not analogous to the situation of Germany or Korea after the Second World War, and the so-called principle of "parallel representation" could not be applied to it. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) conformed to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and, above all, reflected the actual situation in China.

63. The question of Taiwan was a purely internal matter for China and brooked no interference by any country or individual under any pretext. The settlement of the question of Taiwan and the reunification of the motherland were the solemn mission of all the Chinese people, including the population of Taiwan. Over a decade previously, Mr. Deng Xiaoping had proposed a policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" for resolving the Taiwan question. On 1 July 1997, the concept of "one country, two systems" had been successfully introduced in Hong Kong, and on 20 December 1999, China would resume sovereignty over Macao. The Taiwan question would also be resolved; it was only a matter of time. In recent years, through the joint efforts of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, marked progress had been made in exchanges between the two sides. Indirect trade had been growing rapidly and investment in the mainland by Taiwan business people had increased steadily. Economic, trade and cultural exchanges were closer than ever. Raising the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" was a move to severely sabotage the process of China's peaceful reunification.

64. Under the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" and the eight-point proposal of President Jiang Zemin for developing relations across the Strait and promoting peaceful reunification, the various departments of his Government had always safeguarded the interests of Taiwan's population. China's diplomatic missions worked to protect the interests of overseas Chinese, including those on Taiwan. Needless to say, the fundamental guarantee of the dignity and interests of the Taiwan compatriots lay in the reunification of China.

65. Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs were the basis of inter-State relations and cooperation and an integral part of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. China attached importance to developing relations with all States Members of the United Nations, including those with which it did not have diplomatic relations, and it stood ready to work for friendly relations and cooperation with all countries of the world, based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. There were no conflicting fundamental interests between China and the countries raising the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" and China had never done anything detrimental to those countries' interests, but those countries had severely damaged China's interests by supporting the separatist activities of the Taiwan authorities. China hoped

that they would no longer be taken advantage of by the Taiwan authorities and would withdraw their proposal.

66. His Government's firm position of safeguarding China's sovereignty and territorial integrity had the support of the vast majority of countries. For five consecutive years, the General Committee had refused to include the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" in the agenda of the General Assembly, thereby demonstrating the determination of the vast majority of Member States to uphold the Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

67. **The Chairman** said that the representatives of Burkina Faso, Gambia, Malawi, Solomon Islands and Swaziland had asked to participate in the discussion of item 166 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

68. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Jagne (Gambia), Mr. Rubadiri (Malawi), Mr. Horoi (Solomon Islands) and Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland) took places at the Committee table.*

69. **The Chairman** said that the representatives of Argentina, Georgia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Paraguay and Sri Lanka had also asked to participate in the discussion of item 166. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to their requests.

70. *It was so decided.*

71. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Petrella (Argentina), Mr. Chkheidze (Georgia), Mr. Qadhe (Iraq), Mr. Kazykhanov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Awadi (Kuwait), Mr. Saguier Caballero (Paraguay) and Mr. de Saram (Sri Lanka) took places at the Committee table.*

72. **Mr. Dlamini** (Swaziland) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda. The unparalleled political and economic development of the Republic of China on Taiwan had given rise to a strong desire on the part of its people to participate in international life. The Republic of China was becoming increasingly frustrated that its population of 21 million people was being denied the fundamental right to participate in international political, economic and cultural activities under the auspices of a world body of which it had been a founding member. The Kingdom of Swaziland had developed strong ties with the Republic of China over the years and it regretted its exclusion from the international community.

73. The Republic of China accepted the fact that, within overall Chinese boundaries, there were two political entities which exercised jurisdiction over two separate parts of China. It did not intend to engage in a debate about supremacy with the People's Republic of China in the international arena; instead, it was concerned about regaining its international status so that it could coexist peacefully in the community of nations on an equal footing with the People's Republic of China. Restoring its membership in the United Nations would ease regional tensions and facilitate a peaceful settlement of the question of Taiwan. In the post-cold war era, the international community could no longer ignore the Republic of China. While international dialogue and economic cooperation had become major trends in the new world order, global problems were multiplying and international cooperation was required to overcome them; the participation of every nation was crucial. It was therefore in the interests of the entire international community that the Republic of China should participate in and contribute to cooperation on international issues.

74. The Republic of China hoped to restructure the political relationship across the Taiwan Strait, in keeping with the principles of democracy, freedom and equitable prosperity. To accomplish that goal, the fundamental rights of the Republic of China in the United Nations must be restored. It was reassuring that the United Nations had dealt with similar cases in the past and had admitted divided nations to membership, thereby demonstrating that such countries could have equal and parallel participation in the international community. That could, in turn, help to east tensions and create favourable conditions for the settlement of their differences.

75. His delegation noted that, under Article 23 of the Charter, the Republic of China was still recognized as one of the founding members of the United Nations. In the spirit of genuine democratic principles, the United Nations should review General Assembly resolution 27/58 XXVI. The Republic of China had made it clear that it did not intend to challenge the authority of the People's Republic of China or its seat at the United Nations, but rather to create a climate conducive to cooperation with the People's Republic of China with a view to the eventual reunification of China.

76. **Mr. Rubadiri** (Malawi) said that, since 1949, the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the mainland had, for all practical purposes, existed as two separate, sovereign entities. The Republic of China, a signatory of the Charter of the United Nations, had participated in the work of the Organization from its founding in 1945 until 1971, when the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI). The Republic of China on Taiwan had steadily developed and consolidated the attributes of statehood and had become a major global

economic power which provided aid and other technical assistance to developing countries through bilateral arrangements as well as regional and multilateral institutions. It had evolved a truly democratic system of governance and had established formal diplomatic relations with a sizeable number of States Members of the Organization. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) stood in the way of long overdue recognition of the Republic of China on Taiwan by the United Nations, and flimsy legal arguments continued to be advanced in an effort to block the statehood of the Republic of China.

77. The Government of the Republic of China had made it clear that it no longer claimed to represent the whole of China, only the 21.8 million people in the territory under its jurisdiction. At the same time, it was committed to a peaceful resolution of the current division of China. His delegation therefore believed that parallel representation for both Governments at the United Nations was most likely to advance progress towards a lasting solution. Over the years, new States had emerged unexpectedly, and their creation had been welcomed by the United Nations as progress towards international peace. In that spirit, his delegation favoured the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda of the fifty-third session.

78. **Mr. Jagne** (Gambia) said that the Republic of China had existed as a separate entity since time immemorial. Gambia shared the view that Taiwan had no need to declare independence because it was already known as the Republic of China. As one of the major economies of the world and a leader in information technology, it had much to share with the rest of the international community, both developed and developing, especially at a time of economic and financial upheaval. In that context, the exclusion of the Republic of China from world affairs was unwise.

79. The Republic of China was proud of its achievements in the area of democracy and human rights and was totally committed to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In accordance with the principle of universality, his Government firmly believed that the Republic of China should rejoin the international community and take its rightful place at the United Nations. It therefore reiterated its support for the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

80. **Mr. Petrella** (Argentina) said that Argentina had supported General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had established the People's Republic of China as a permanent member of the Security Council in the interests of justice and in accordance with the principle of territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter and in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2625 (XXV). Argentina had been one of the first States to normalize diplomatic relations with the Government of the People's Republic of China and to recognize that Government as the only lawful representative of China and Taiwan as a part of China. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda and hoped that the issue would soon be resolved in the manner that would most benefit the Chinese people.

81. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan fully supported the determination of the Government and people of the People's Republic of China to safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity. It was his Government's position that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of the people of China, that Taiwan was a part of China and that the question of Taiwan was an internal matter which could be settled only by the Chinese Government and people. It therefore opposed the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

82. **Mr. Horoi** (Solomon Islands) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been a product of the cold war and of a mentality that no longer had a place in the United Nations. The resolution was remarkable in that it had expelled the Republic of China, a founding member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the Security Council, without ever mentioning that country by name. Article 23 of the Charter continued to list the Republic of China as a permanent member of the Council, and no intellectual acrobatics could alter the fact that the People's Republic of China was not the Republic of China. In fact, resolution 2758 (XXVI) had expelled, not the Republic of China, but "the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek", who was long dead. In its 50 years of separation from the mainland, the Republic of China on Taiwan had become a vigorous democracy with a vibrant economy and a well-educated, prosperous population who were determined to protect their freedoms and human rights. It remained a force for economic stability in the region and a significant source of development assistance.

83. Refusal of the request to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) would violate the letter and spirit of the Charter and deny the nearly 22 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan the right to be represented in the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It would make the peaceful reunification of the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China even more difficult and would ignore serious threats to the peace and security of the region posed not only by armed conflict but also by, for instance, serious health crises. Other General Assembly resolutions had been reviewed and revoked in whole or in part, and the General Committee should give the General

Assembly the opportunity to do the same at its fifty-third session.

84. **Mr. de Saram** (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka did not support the idea of "two Chinas" or the coexistence of two Chinese Governments. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had restored the lawful rights of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people and had finally allowed that country's millions of citizens to be represented at the United Nations. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

85. **Mr. Saguier Caballero** (Paraguay) said that, under article 4 of the Charter, membership in the United Nations was open to all peace-loving States which accepted the obligations contained in the Charter and were able and willing to carry out those obligations. The Republic of China met the three criteria for statehood: it occupied territory, was inhabited by a population and had an independent Government. Furthermore, it had shown its willingness to engage in international cooperation. The Government of Paraguay therefore felt that item 166 had sufficient merit to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. It hoped that the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China would eventually resolve their differences and achieve reconciliation.

86. **Mr. Qadhe** (Iraq) said that the issue had been settled once and for all at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, when an overwhelming majority of Member States had established that there was one China and one Chinese State, the People's Republic of China. There was no justification for including item 166 in the agenda of the current session, and to do so would constitute flagrant interference in China's internal affairs and pose a threat to its territorial integrity. Discussing the issue repeatedly at each session of the General Committee was a waste of time. His Government supported the efforts of the People's Republic of China to resolve the issue in a peaceful manner that would enhance Chinese unity and safeguard peace and security in the region.

87. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that the existence of the Republic of China was a reality and that many States maintained various kinds of relations with that country. The United Nations had a duty to consider all issues that were potentially detrimental to international peace and security. Moreover, no situation was impervious to change and, at a time of United Nations reform, there was no reason not to consider a review of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His Government had great respect for the People's Republic of China and had no wish to violate the rights of any Member State. However, it hoped that the rights of the Republic of China on Taiwan would be recognized and that item 166 would be included in the agenda.

88. **Mr. Al-Awadi** (Kuwait) said that the issue of Taiwan's membership in the United Nations had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which clearly established the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representative of the Chinese people. Any attempt to include item 166 in the agenda would be in clear contradiction with that resolution and would constitute interference in that State's affairs.

89. **Mr. Chkheidze** (Georgia) said that, while his delegation had great respect for the delegations which had requested the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda, it felt that the General Committee should proceed on the understanding that the United Nations was an intergovernmental organization composed of Member States. His Government upheld the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China and was opposed to the inclusion of item 166 in the agenda.

90. *Mr. Petrella (Argentina), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Jagne (Gambia), Mr. Chkheidze (Georgia), Mr. Qadhe (Iraq), Mr. Kazykhanov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Awadi (Kuwait), Mr. Rubadiri (Malawi), Mr. Saguier Caballero (Paraguay), Mr. Horoi (Solomon Islands), Mr. de Saram (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland) withdrew.*

91. **Mr. Macedo** (Mexico) said that his Government upheld the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China and saw no reason to question the validity of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation therefore categorically rejected the proposal to include item 166 in the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.